

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, all human lives are precious from the conception of an unborn child until natural death. We recognize this fact scientifically, legally, philosophically, and morally and takes steps to educate the public accordingly. In order to achieve Freedom for Life, we must take care of moms and their babies both before birth and after; and,

*Whereas*, the first 1,000 days of a child's life – from conception until their second birthday – are the most significant days for their development. Every moment sets the foundation for the rest of their lives; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota provides extensive resources to moms, babies, and their families to take care of them, especially through those first 1,000 days. Life.SD.gov helps moms and their babies before birth and after by providing resources for pregnancy, new parents, financial assistance, and adoption; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota has the highest birth rate in the nation according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is a reflection of our state's Freedom for Life and the hope that our people have to bring children into the world; and,

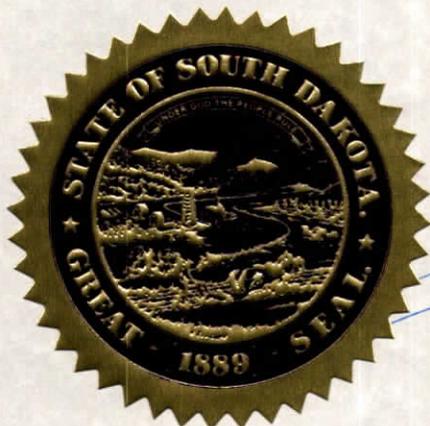
*Whereas*, there are rising challenges of maternal and infant mortality, particularly on our state's nine tribal reservations, that we must address in order to protect and sustain Freedom for Life; and,

*Whereas*, it is fitting and proper for the Governor to celebrate South Dakota's Freedom for Life; make moms, families, medical professionals, and others aware of available resources; hold events recognizing these facts; and do all that I can to take care of moms and their babies both before birth and after:

*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim 2024 as

## **FREEDOM FOR LIFE YEAR**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

  
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Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

  
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Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State